



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2405

NOV 27 1991

Ref: 8HWM-FF

Mr. Frazer Lockhart
Department of Energy
Rocky Flats Office
P.O. Box 928
Golden, CO 80402-0928

re: DOE-HQ Review Periods

Dear Mr. Lockhart:

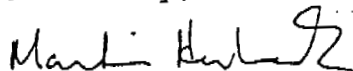
This letter is being forwarded to express EPA and CDH concerns over the document review protocol issued recently (October 25, 1991) by DOE Headquarters (EM-40). It is our opinion that the review protocol outlined is unnecessarily time consuming, will not measurably improve the decision process, and cannot be accommodated within the context of the Rocky Flats IAG.

Our understanding of the EM-40 protocol is that virtually all Rocky Flats IAG milestone deliverables will be considered "Primary" documents for the purposes of DOE-HQ review. This will apparently involve an additional four weeks (minimum) of internal DOE review at two or three different points in the preparation process for each IAG deliverable, thus extending the CERCLA/RCRA remedial action decision process by up to a year for each OU.

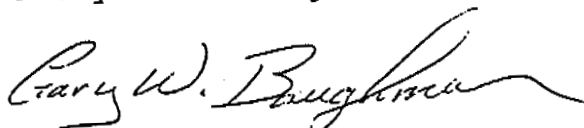
These time periods are not contained in the existing IAG schedules, and we object to the assertion that these schedules "should be amended" to allow for them. We do not consider this policy change an adequate basis for renegotiation of schedules. The improved "consistency" that additional review is purportedly aimed to produce seems neither likely nor worthwhile given the associated confusion and delays. As you will recall, DOE-HQ reviewed and approved the existing schedules before the IAG was signed; we expect them to honor that commitment.

We would appreciate being informed of your intended response to the EM-40 directive as early as possible. Attempts to unilaterally alter existing schedules to accommodate DOE-HQ reviews will be a breach of our agreement requiring immediate attention from all parties. Contact Martin Hestmark (EPA) at 294-1134 or Gary Baughman (CDH) at 331-4847 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Martin Hestmark, EPA
Manager
Rocky Flats Program



Gary Baughman, CDH
Unit Leader
Hazardous Waste Facilities

cc: Barbara Barry, CDH
Gary Baughman, CDH
Erich Evered, EG&G
Bill Fraser, EPA